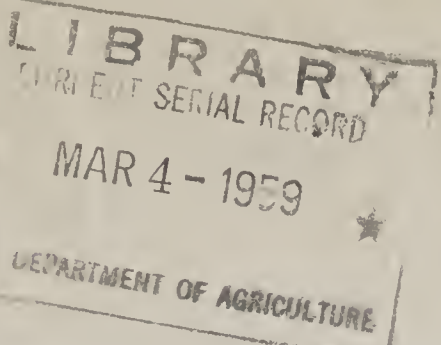


## **Historic, archived document**

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.





June 27, 1957

A335.9  
M343  
Cp. 2

Farmers' monthly electricity bills were at a record high as of July 1956 but per kilowatt hour costs were at a record low, according to the annual survey made last year by the Crop Reporting Board. The survey covered more than 21,000 farmers throughout the United States.

Continued increases in use of electricity on the farm pushed the average monthly bill 4 percent above July 1955 to \$10.40 per month in July 1956 and 70 percent above the 1947-49 average. The increased use of electricity from the average of 196 kilowatt hours per month in 1947-49 to 405 in 1956 has placed many farmers in the consumption bracket where they obtain much of their electricity at a relatively low kilowatt-hour rate. This accounts for the record low per kilowatt-hour cost of 2.56 cents which is 2 percent below 1955 and 18 percent below the 1947-49 average. Meanwhile, there has been an increase in rates paid for specified amounts in many areas.

All but two regions reported higher average bills in 1956 than a year earlier. The largest increases were in the New England States--up 6 percent to average \$10.90 and in the West North Central States with a 4 percent increase. On the declining side were the Pacific Coast States --down 3 percent from the year before to average \$24.40 per month and the Mid-Atlantic States at \$10.60, down nearly 3 percent.

Kilowatt-hour consumption per farm has risen quite sharply during the past 10 years in all areas except the Pacific Coast States, where the quantity used varies from year to year depending in large part, on the amount of electricity used to pump irrigation water. The largest regional increase from 1955 was 40 kilowatt hours per month in the Mountain States. The East North Central and New England States were next with increases of 35 kilowatt-hours per month each. The Pacific Coast States' consumption rate compared with the year before dropped 3 percent or 45 kilowatt-hours to a monthly average of 1,335 per farm. The largest gains percentage-wise in kilowatt-hours used per farm from the 1947-49 average to 1956 were made in the Pacific Coast and Southern States.

Per kilowatt-hour costs in 1956 averaged lower than in 1955 except in the East North Central and Pacific States where they were unchanged. Compared with the 1947-49 averages, the 1956 costs were lower in all but the Pacific States. Since 1947 the average yearly decline in per

kilowatt-hour costs has been almost  $2\frac{1}{2}$  percent or an overall decrease of over 20 percent. The amount of electricity used influences the cost per kilowatt-hour. Most power companies have a declining rate schedule where the more kilowatt-hours used the lower the cost per kilowatt-hour.

Kilowatt-hours used, average cost per kilowatt-hour, and  
average monthly bill per farm by regions 1/

Regions	Kwh. used per farm			Av. cost per kwh.			Av. monthly bill		
	Av.	1955	1956	Av.	1955	1956	Av.	1955	1956
	1947-49			1947-49			1947-49		
				Cents	Cents	Cents	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.
N. Eng.	243	355	390	3.2	2.9	2.8	7.67	10.30	10.90
M. Atl.	288	495	505	2.7	2.4	2.3	7.82	11.91	11.60
E. N. C.	227	425	440	3.2	2.7	2.7	7.22	11.50	11.90
W. N. C.	166	320	345	4.2	3.5	3.4	6.93	11.20	11.70
S. Atl.	131	295	325	3.5	2.6	2.4	4.53	7.70	7.80
E. S. C.	125	260	295	3.3	2.4	2.2	4.08	6.20	6.50
W. S. C.	106	225	240	4.5	3.3	3.2	4.74	7.40	7.70
Mount.	287	510	550	2.5	2.4	2.3	7.07	12.20	12.60
Pacific	442	1400	1355	1.7	1.8	1.8	7.70	25.20	24.40
U. S.	196	385	405	3.13	2.61	2.56	6.13	10.00	10.40

1/ The survey made in July and August requested data based on "last bill". This was generally a bill for a period ending in last June, July, or early August.

- 2 -

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

Penalty for private use to avoid  
payment of postage \$300.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE

Agriculture-Washington